

OPENING OF DEFENSE IN "CRIBBING" INQUIRY

Examination of Witnesses for Accused Midshipmen to Begin at Annapolis Monday.

ANNAPOLIS, Md., June 26.—A definite point in the "cribbing" investigation at the Naval Academy was reached today when Judge Advocate Watt at the close of the morning session of the court of inquiry announced that he had no further witnesses to call at this time. The defense accordingly will begin Monday the examination of

its witnesses from among the members of the regiment of midshipmen now quartered aboard the ships of the practice squadron.

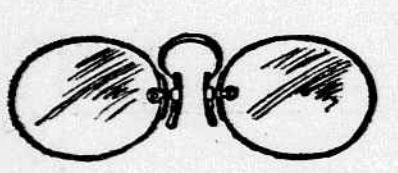
It is considered probable that the cruise of the midshipmen to the San Francisco exposition will start within a week.

Accused of Contempt of Court.

A complaint against Ensign R. Burben, one of the defendants, was filed by Ensign J. L. McCrea with the commandant of midshipmen, and today forwarded to the court by that officer. Burben was charged with contempt of court in attempting to talk to a witness while the latter was sequestered and under the guard of McCrea. Burben submitted a written statement to the court in which he said he had no intention of breaking any rule of the court, but thought as a defendant he had a right to converse with any witness. The court stated that it would announce its action upon the case at some later date.

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SAYS U. S. GUNNERS FALL OFF IN WORK

Representative Gardner Declares Marksmanship of Navy Below Standard.

ADMIRAL FLETCHER'S
REPORT IS REVEALED

Congressman Asks Series of Designedly Embarrassing Questions of Secretary Daniels.

The charge that the marksmanship of the gunners of the United States Navy has fallen away below the standard of other nations is made in a letter to Secretary Daniels of the Navy Department by Representative Gardner of Massachusetts. Mr. Gardner incloses in his letter a "confidential" report of Admiral Fletcher, commandant of the fleet, dated February 12, 1915, wherein he states that the marksmanship of the gunners of the United States Navy is "below the standard of other nations."

Letter to Secretary Daniels. Representative Gardner's letter to the Secretary of the Navy is as follows: "I invite your attention to the fol-

lowing extract from a confidential order with regard to target practice issued by Admiral Fletcher when the fleet was away in Cuban waters last winter. Your policy of concealment forces me to publish this document. It was placed in my hands some time ago and I have good reason to believe it authentic. I cannot prove it to be authentic, but I have refused to give me copies of target practice orders."

"United States Atlantic Fleet."
"U. S. S. Wyoming, Target Practice."
"Gulf of Guacanayabo, Cuba."
"February 12, 1915."
"Fleet Order, No. 1-15"

"Target Practice."
"1. The results obtained at elementary target practice this year differed in no essential respects from those of the past four or five years."

"2. Although the officers and crews have diligently carried out the prescribed training, drills and exercises, no material improvement has been apparent in the accuracy of our gunfire."

"3. More accurate instruments have been supplied of late years and some good ideas have been introduced, but aside from this it would seem as though we had about reached the limit of improvement and accuracy under our present methods."

"4. Boards have been appointed in a number of cases to investigate the low scores made by some of the ships, but the conclusions of the boards were unsatisfactory and have failed to locate the causes of the low percentage of hits. The general conclusion that low scores were due to poor gun pointing and lack of training has not been convincing and seems to have been founded upon impression rather than exact data."

Backing for Contention.

"This confidential document seems to give color to ex-Secretary Meyer's public assertion that the target practice of our fleet is no better than it was ten years ago."

"You will observe that in spite of the various improvements and inventions which ought to have enabled us to keep pace with the world in efficient target practice, the results continue unsatisfactory. Furthermore, in a recent speech in New York, Admiral Fiske, according to the press, pointed out the fact that our gunners are not even attempting to equal the long range marksmanship of European navies."

"Twice I have asked you for the records of our target practice, and twice you have refused. In a letter to me January 8, 1915, you made the following statement: 'The records of tar-

get practice have always been kept as strictly confidential.'

Asks Pointed Question.

"Is it true, Mr. Secretary, that the records of good target practice have always been kept as strictly confidential? I am authorized by your predecessor, former Secretary Meyer, to say that when he was at the head of the Navy Department the records of target practice were published for the information of the public. Do you reconcile that statement with your own?"

"February 27, 1915, I wrote to you making inquiries about the splendid record of William Ruff, gun pointer on the battleship Texas, who replied promptly, informing me that Ruff had made four hits out of four shots with a five-inch gun, but that the distance was less than twenty miles, which was the distance specified in the press reports."

"May 19, 1915, I wrote you, inviting attention to the mortifying gossip that recently the battleship Michigan succeeded in making only five hits out of twenty-seven shots at a range of about 3,000 yards, as against a record of this ship in 1911 of nineteen hits out of twenty-seven shots under substantially the same conditions. To this you replied that the information cannot be given, as it is confidential with the practice of the department."

"How do you reconcile your reticence to supply the good record of the gun pointer of the battleship Texas with your unreadiness to supply the bad record of the battleship Michigan?"

Not Vindicated, Is Claim.

"You have continually said that ship for ship and man for man, our navy is the equal of any navy upon earth. The recent maneuvers have scarcely vindicated your accuracy, at least as regards our ships. Nothing but the frank publication of the unsterilized figures will allay the apprehension lest your assertion with regard to our men may not be well founded either. If our men are inferior in marksmanship, their superiority in scholarly attainment will not suffice to make them the military equals of the German seamen."

After all, Mr. Secretary, an atrocious speller may be a noteworthy gun pointer and a battle is a very real occurrence in which polished words are elbowed aside by uncouth facts."

Navy Officer Loses Fifty Numbers.

Lieut. John P. Miller of the navy recently was convicted by court-martial convened at Guam of the charge of conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline and sentenced to lose fifty numbers in his grade. The sentence has been approved by the Secretary of the Navy.

CALL FOR \$1 EACH URGED ON CITIZENS

Fireworks Committee for 4th of July Must Know Tomorrow What It Will Have.

FAIR WEATHER ALL
THAT IS REQUIRED

Independence Day Committee Believes This Year's Celebration Will Eclipse All in Past.

Independence day committee workers last night sounded the final call for contributions and also entries for the fireworks show and tournament, which will be one of the big features of Washington's patriotic celebration, one week from tomorrow.

Citizens who have not yet responded to the one-dollar call are urged to mail a donation of this amount to Commissioner Newman today, in order that the fireworks committee, when it meets tomorrow, will know just how much it will have to spend for the pyrotechnical display.

As the program for the horse show will be sent to the printer Tuesday morning, it also is imperative that entries be submitted to Chairman Melvin C. Hazen, in the District building, by that time. It is especially desired that merchants who intend entering in the workhorse parade make their nominations immediately, in order that their names may be published in the program.

Fair Weather Only Requirement.

Fair weather is all that will be required to insure the success of the celebration, in the opinion of the members of the various committees which have been hard at work upon the program assigned them. Great as have

been the capital's various Fourth of July celebrations, the festival to be held this year will eclipse them all, it is confidently believed.

While the three-thousand-dollar fund which the public has been asked to subscribe is only a little more than half of the amount which the committee is hoping to raise, the committee is confident that the entire amount will be in hand by tomorrow morning. The committee believes when the public realizes that only a dollar is required from 1,300-odd families to complete the fund the necessary donations will be immediately forthcoming.

Tournament Program.

The following is the tournament program in detail: Workhorse parade, jumping, enlisted men, U. S. A., \$5, \$3, \$2; saddle horses, ponies in harness, 12½ hands and under, 100-yard dash, enlisted men, U. S. A., \$5, \$3, \$2; harness horses, free, 100-yard dash, enlisted men, U. S. A., \$5, \$3, \$2; rough riding, Troop N, 15th Cavalry, \$5; jumping over class, mounted wrestling, U. S. A., \$5, \$3, \$2; special challenge mule race, half-mile polo pony race, 15 hands and under, half-mile mule race, open to all, catch weights. Money or prizes will be awarded in all events. A mammoth bunch of American beauty roses donated by William E. Gude will be presented to the most beautiful lady on the grounds. Judges will be selected later. Post entries in all of the events will be closed at 10 o'clock.

The first event in the Independence day program will be the patriotic exercises for new citizens, to which the public generally is invited. To be held at the base of the Monument the morning of July 5. There will be a reading of the Declaration of Independence and an impressive patriotic demonstration.

Call to Athletes.

C. Edward Beckett, chairman of the committee on athletics, has issued a call to the athletes of Washington to fill out their entry blanks for the swimming and track events, which will be run off on the Monument grounds and at the municipal bathing beach, beginning at 9:30 o'clock Monday, July 5. Chairman Beckett announced that entry blanks for all the events may be had from Scudding, 613 14th street northwest, at the Y. M. C. A., 1736 G street northwest, or at room 2, District building, and that they must be handed in at these points in person no later than Tuesday. Gold, silver and bronze medals are offered as prizes in the events.

The next event of interest on the program will be the tournament, which is scheduled to start at 2:30 o'clock, beginning at 9:30 o'clock Monday, July 5. Following this, the children of the

District playgrounds will present a liberty pageant in the grounds to the south of the Washington Monument. The pageant will be conducted under the direction of a committee headed by E. J. Donovan, acting supervisor of the District playgrounds, and will be participated in by 400 children. The pageant is being prepared under the direction of Miss Mary Roper of the playgrounds department. It will start promptly at 4 o'clock.

The pageant first comes winding over the hill children in single file, and all take positions indicated by a diagram. The Marine Band will play while the children assemble into position. The line is headed by Indians, who dance first, and who are frightened away by the Puritans, who dance next. The Dutch then take the central stage and this dance will be followed by the children of the American Revolution.

An Interpretive Dance.

Tyranny then dances an interpretive dance and there enters the Spirit of Public Resentment, who battles with Tyranny until War enters. Tyranny and Public Resentment and War all dance together in conflict and Public Resentment overcomes Tyranny and War. Peace enters, timidly, and finally drives out both War and Tyranny. Peace is again in central position, and holds the most beautiful lady on the grounds. A train come the representatives of her attributes: Victory, New York; Liberty, New York; Justice, New York; and others.

After Liberty has been crowned in the Stars and Stripes, the elements of Prosperity present themselves to her for service, as follows: Commerce, Miss Katherine Beckett; Industry, Miss MacCallip; Agriculture, Miss Ira Judge; Education, Miss Bertha Bell; Education, Miss Pearl Beckett; Recreation, Miss Maude Burkin; Charity, Miss Lillian Cleveland.

The fireworks program will be preceded by a band concert of patriotic music starting at 6:30 o'clock. In connection with the fireworks, there will be an opportunity to sing anthems.

Every safeguard will be thrown about the festival to insure the safety and interest throughout the day, and effort made to insure comfort to the public.

Uruguay Greetings to Lansing.

Uruguay's greetings to the new Secretary of State at Washington came in a telegram addressed to Secretary Lansing from Dr. Blanco, minister of public works and public health, Montevideo, Uruguay. He said: "I am glad to hear of your appointment to the high office, remembering magnificent reception at Washington. Congratulations and greetings."

O. K.'s Greenhouse Proposal.

The Secretary of the Navy has authorized in law for the erection of a greenhouse at the Marine Corps reservation, here, to take the place of the present structure. The building, which will cost \$250 or \$300, will be used to house and protect public plants and flowers utilized to beautify the reservation and parade grounds. Controller of the Treasury Downey rules that current appropriations are available.

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Bathing Caps, of rubber and silk... 25c to 98c

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DIED.

BROWNING. On Friday, June 25, 1915, at 10:30 a.m., Mrs. BROWNING, the youngest son of Mrs. BROWNING and the late Livingston Brownning, in his thirty-second year.

Funeral services Monday, June 28, 2:30 p.m., at the residence, 1500 14th street, N.W., Md. Interment, Mount Olivet.

CLAYTON. On Saturday, June 26, 1915, at her residence, 422 Franklin street southeast, HELEN CLAYTON, beloved wife of John Clayton. Due notice of funeral will be given later.

CROSS. Departed this life Saturday, June 26, 1915, at 12:30 p.m., CLAYTON M. Cross, beloved son of the late Capt. Jeremiah and Martha M. Cross.

Gone, but not forgotten.

Services at the chapel at Congressional cemetery Monday, June 28, at 2 p.m. Relatives and friends requested to attend.

CURRY. Departed this life on Saturday, June 26, 1915, at his residence, 1202A 14th street southeast, THOMAS CURRY, beloved father of Thomas M. Patrick, Joseph J. and William Curry.

Interment at Albany, N. Y. (New York and Albany papers please copy.)

EVANS. Mrs. MARY EVANS, beloved wife of James B. Evans and mother of Mrs. Mary B. Evans and Mrs. James McDonald, will be taken from the vault at Mount Olivet cemetery, Monday, June 28, at 2 o'clock, and interred in the family lot.

JACKSON. Suddenly, on Wednesday, June 24, 1915, at 7:30 p.m., at 27 1/2th street northwest, BROOKLYN, the beloved husband of Cornelia F. and father of Estelle E. and William Jackson, Mrs. Hemetia Harris, Mrs. Annie Morrison, Louise Ricks, Mrs. Sarah P. Ricks, Evelyn Moss and Mrs. M. C. Morrison and the uncle of Robert M. Harris.

Funeral from Third Baptist Church, 5th and G streets northwest, Sunday, June 27, at 1 o'clock. Rev. James H. Lee, pastor. Friends and relatives invited to attend.

LOCKWOOD. On Friday, June 25, 1915, at Brooklyn, N. Y., Mrs. FANNIE LOCKWOOD, beloved wife of Robert Lockwood, departed this life.

Funeral from Winslow's chapel, 22th and R streets northwest, Monday, June 28, at 3 p.m. Friends invited to attend.

NEWMAN. On June 16, 1915, in York, Clark county, Ill., M. R. NEWMAN, a Confederate veteran of Hamilton's Company, Ill. 17th Virginia Infantry, longest service, 22 years. He leaves a wife, three daughters, one son and one grandson of Chicago, Ill.

THOMAS. On Friday, June 25, 1915, GEORGE C. Thomas, husband of Mary E. Thomas (nee Barrett).

Funeral from his late residence, 544 McLean avenue southwest, on Tuesday, June 29, at 2:30 p.m. Service at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, where requiem high mass will be sung for the repose of his soul. Relatives and friends invited to attend. Interment at Mount Olivet cemetery.

In Memoriam.

GARRATT. Passed to the memory of our darling baby, LLOYD EUGENE GARRATT, who died one year ago today, June 27, 1914.

BY THE FAMILY.

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